# **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 4:30 pm Council Chambers

PRESENT	ABSENT
Gil Palmer	Tony McClendon
Greg Lewis	Shiva Rallapalli
lan Kohen	Rosalind Pegram
John Stroh	
Trena Carter	
John Roberts	
Rhea Baker-Ipek	

## Meeting called to order

## STAFF PRESENT

Director Lorraine Smith, Deputy Director Frances Jordan and Betsy Schuette

# **GUESTS**

Kelly Benjamin, City Attorney, Tim Shuffett, City Council Liaison, Dr. Kevin Jones, from IUPUC

# **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Director Smith requested to correct an item in the For Action section to add II W of the Rules and Regulations in addition to II K that Commissioner Kohen had moved to amend. **Commissioner Ipek-Baker moved to accept the corrected minutes Commissioner Lewis seconded. Motion carried.** 

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Carter reported \$5,927.70 in the Donations Account and \$1,497.02 in the Non-Reverting Fund for a total of \$7,424.72.

The Heritage Fund Grant which covers the expenses for the 'Adventures in DiversCity' had a balance of \$3,040.40.

# **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No Report.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Lorraine Smith reported that the office has been very busy with preparations for the Annual Dinner. She commended Councilmember liaison Tim Shuffett for bringing the Commission up to full speed with the Commissioner appointments. Director Smith also reported that Commissioner Ian Kohen has been re-appointed to the Commission and there will be another re-appointment April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **OFFICE**

- Deputy Director Jordan reported that she gave a presentation at IUPUC called Inclusivity Matters for the Leadership Students. She presented on the importance of diversity in leadership and the Public Speaking class joined, and she had more students than she had anticipated.
- Director Smith reported that the Outreach Committee with Heritage Fund is still looking at a Welcoming
  Community Center as well as how the Commission can have an impact on the Arts District. Many
  organizations have come together to discuss how the Community Portal conveys a digital world in Columbus
  and in determining how welcoming Columbus is. Sean O'Leary, the IT Executive for the City is working on
  this project with Chris Price who is also a member of the Outreach Committee. They plan to make the
  community portal ADA accessible, especially for the visually impaired.
- Tracy Souza, CEO of Heritage Fund has included Bridging the Economic Gap as one of their initiatives. While this is a socioeconomic issue it also has a diversity impact since persons of color tend to be at the

- bottom of the socioeconomic rum. A preview of the detailed needs assessment issued by the United Way at their Annual Meeting, when it comes out Director Smith will send an update to the Commissioners.
- Sean O'Leary, the IT Executive has been working on a customer service request for the Mayor that will be
  available on the website. The system does not meet the needs of the Human Rights Commission and there
  is also a concern with confidentiality and privacy. The Human Rights Commission has opted out of this
  particular system. Director O'Leary is researching a more user friendly system for our needs.

### **UPCOMING**

- Mayor Brown contacted Director Smith about the Diversity Circles summer session sponsored by IUPUC.
   They will be held from May 13-July 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm-1:00pm
- CAMEO Annual Meeting the will be May 8<sup>th</sup>, Tracy Souza will be the keynote speaker.
- CYP Annual Meeting, May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Director Smith will be doing a not-for-profit training for Heritage Fund's not-for-profit series in September 2013.
- Director Smith will be on medical leave and will contact the Commissioners with more details on her leave.
- Adventures in DiversCity's finale will be in May.

#### ANNUAL DINNER

- Director Smith reported that the Commission needed to sell 300 tickets to cover costs. Current number of tickets sold at this point is 160 not including any tickets the Commissioners have sold.
- Betsy will be meeting with Angie Huebel, Director of Volunteers in Action about getting some volunteers to help at the Annual Dinner. Commissioners will also have opportunity to help during the Annual Dinner and need to be at the Dinner at 6:00 PM.

#### **ADA Transition Plan**

- Deputy Director Jordan reported to the Commission regarding the ADA Transition Plan. The plan can be found on the City's website, under the Personnel Department's section.
- Deputy Director Jordan went over:
  - The Self-Evaluation Form
  - o Results of the surveys
  - Priorities to fix
  - o Grievance Procedure Personnel Director, Arlette Cooper- Tinsley is the ADA Coordinator for the city

## LIAISON REPORT:

Commissioner Baker-Ipek reported that the Interfaith Forum has been working on developing a sustained dialogue in Columbus, Indiana. The effort is being spear headed by Merry Carmichael, whose brother, Phil Stewart started the International institute of Sustained Dialogue. Currently, Interfaith Forum is still gauging the community's interest in having the sustained dialogue.

Commissioner Lewis attended the March CAMEO meeting. In the meeting, CAMEO presented more information regarding their strategic planning, and announced their Annual Meeting which is May 8<sup>th</sup>. The individual associations gave updates regarding their upcoming activities, and you can find that information on the CAMEO website.

Commissioner Stroh reported that the Inclusive Community Coalition did not meet this past month.

Commissioner Roberts reported that he has been asked to serve on the Transit Advisory Board. Commissioner Roberts requested clarification whether he could serve on the Board and remain the liaison. City Attorney Benjamin did not believe there would be any conflict with Commissioner Roberts serving on the Board, and continuing to be a liaison to the Commission. This was the consensus that was agreed upon.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Carter moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Stroh seconded. Motion carried meeting adjourned.